

November 13, 2000

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE Structural Fire Management Program

STRATEGIC PLAN

Structural Fire Mission Statement

The National Park Service enabling legislation, as well as other statutes, charges the service with preserving and protecting human life and the resources entrusted to its management. These resources include buildings and structures, irreplaceable cultural resources, valuable property, and infrastructure.

The National Park Service maintains a structural fire capability that meets the diversity and complexity of the different units of the System. The structural fire program provides service-wide policy, standards, operational procedures and accountability. The program ensures that all areas within the system have an appropriate level of structural fire protection that is provided in a safe and cost effective manner by qualified personnel.

Role and Function of the Structural Fire Management Program

The NPS Structural Fire Management (SFM) program establishes servicewide policy, standards, operational procedures and accountability for structural fire prevention, protection and suppression. It ensures that internationally accepted structural fire standards are integrated with other National Park Service Programs

The Structural Fire Management Program functions under the Associate Director, Park Operations and Education through the Deputy Chief Ranger for Fire, Aviation and Emergency Services of the Division of Ranger Activities.

Purpose

This strategic plan provides vision and philosophy to guide decisions about the scope and direction of the program. Future decisions, major initiatives and work plans will be tied to this plan.

The NPS Structural Fire Management Program provides national leadership, direction, and coordination to:

- Prevent Structural Fire.
- Establish and achieve national standards for safety of employees and the visiting public.
- Protect cultural and natural resources.
- Achieve and maintain the highest standards of professionalism, using state-of-the-art concepts, technologies and practices.

- Provide coordination with other servicewide programs such as facility management, cultural resource management, and concession management.
- Maximize partnerships with federal, state, and local entities in order to achieve the greatest benefits for the protection of persons and property.

Strategic Plan Development Concepts

The goals of this Structural Fire Management strategic plan are tied to goals established under the NPS Strategic Plan. This strategic plan also incorporates goals and objectives that were developed by the National Park Service Structural Fire Steering Committee.

- The NPS mission goal categories come directly from the NPS Strategic Plan.
- Under each NPS mission goal are found NPS structural fire mission goals. These mission goals apply service-wide.
- Core strategies give direction for achieving long-term structural fire management mission goals.
- Steering Committee member work plans will be developed from the core strategies.

Structural Fire Management Program Operational Constraints

The actions of the Structural Fire Management Program are influenced and constrained by the following conditions:

- Funding and personnel necessary to implement a comprehensive Structural Fire Management Program.
- Implementation of this plan will require a change in priorities and cultural attitudes toward structural fire prevention and protection within the NPS

Goals and Strategies

1. NPS Strategic Goal Category: Preserve Park Resources

1a. NPS Structural Fire Management Goal: All new & existing structures are designed, constructed &/or maintained to minimize the risk of fire occurring.

SFM Long Term Goal

1a1. Parks are using the best technical expertise and technology to provide adequate fire protection.

Core Strategies

1a.1(a). Educate NPS management on the importance of using the best technical expertise and technologies to provide adequate SF protection.

1a.1(b). Identify technical resources available (who, what, where).

- 1a.1(c).** Provide for adequate design oversight.
- 1a.1(d).** Ensure that qualified inspectors oversee construction / repair / rehab.
- 1a.1(e).** Develop core competencies for NPS trade employees for code compliance.

SFM Long Term Goal

- 1a2.** Every structure has appropriate fire detection and protection.

Core Strategies

- 1a.2(a).** Conduct, document and analyze structural fire assessments.
- 1a.2(b).** Design and install systems.
- 1a.2(c).** Test and maintain systems.
- 1a.2(d).** Develop project statement and funding requests (PMIS).

SFM Long Term Goal

- 1a3.** Prevention provides the basis for all Park SFM programs.

Core Strategies

- 1a.3(a).** Develop training / education for staff.
- 1a.3(b).** Develop and implement preventive maintenance program (HVAC, electrical, boilers, etc.).
- 1a.3(c).** Develop and implement inspection program housekeeping, fuel loading, alarm systems, etc.).
- 1a.3(d).** Correct deficiencies (fix, remove, eliminate, modify).

2. NPS Strategic Goal Category: Ensures organizational effectiveness

2a. NPS Structural Fire Management Goal: The service-wide SF program meets the diverse needs of individual Park units.

SFM Long Term Goal

- 2a1.** Provide policy, guidelines, and direction for the development of Park and service-wide programs.

Core Strategies

- 2a.1(a).** Develop RM #58
- 2a.1(b).** Integrate SFM program with other existing programs.
- 2a.1(c).** Continually review SFM program and update RM 58 as necessary.
- 2a.1(d).** Evaluate and revise SFM program at all levels of NPS

SFM Long Term Goal

2a2. Evaluate fire history, building condition, and values to be protected to determine individual park and service-wide structural fire needs.

Core Strategies

2a.2(a). Develop and implement analysis process.

2a.2(b). Develop and implement inspection process.

2a.2(c). Develop and implement data collection and reporting.

2a.2(d). Integrate data collection system with other existing systems.

SFM Long Term Goal

2a3. Provide education and training service-wide for NPS staff and partners in fire prevention and protection.

Core Strategies

2a.3(a). Integrate training into existing NPS training programs where possible.

2a.3(b). Complete design of training sessions.

2a.3(c). Develop service-wide training and education programs.

2a.3(d). Use best electronic format to disseminate information.

2a.3(e). Develop competencies for SF program (RM #58).

2a.3(f). Evaluate and educate concession staff.

2a.3(g). Educate Directorate NLC on the scope of Structural Fire issues.

SFM Long Term Goal

2a4. Provide technical expertise and subject matter experts to assist in development and / or implementation of program needs.

Core Strategies

2a.4(a). Develop service-wide Subject Matter Experts for:

- Fire Prevention
- Fire Protection
- Fire Suppression

2a.4(b). Develop internal expertise.

2a.4(c). Identify and utilize external expertise where appropriate.

2a.4(d). Identify and utilize SFMO's in Individual Parks or Clusters.

2a.4(e). Use best electronic format to disseminate information.

3. The following Strategic Goal does not clearly fit into only one of the identified NPS Strategic Goals. It fits into-

#1 Preserve Park Resources

#2 Provide for public enjoyment and visitor experience

#4 Ensure organizational effectiveness of parks

3a. NPS Structural Fire Mission Goal: When fire does occur, there are no injuries or lives lost, and damage from a fire and suppression activity is minimized.

SFM Long Term Goal

3a1. Parks with SF brigades comply with current DO / RM 58 standards.

Core Strategies

3a.1(a). Complete RM #58

3a.1(b). Provide training and continuing education (recertification, etc.).

3a.1(c). Ensure park equipment, PPE, apparatus, and response comply with DO & RM #58.

3a.1(d). Develop pre-fire planning process that addresses individual Park resources.

SFM Long Term Goal

3a2. Establish a fire prevention, education and training program for all Structural Fire staff.

Core Strategies

3a.2(a). Develop training and certification process for Park Structural Fire Management Officers, Prevention Officers, and Fire Protection Engineers.

3a.2(b). Educate and evaluate concession staff on fire prevention issues and responsibilities.

SFM Long Term Goal

3a3. Mutual Aid fire suppression resources are able to meet the unique requirements of the Park and its resources.

Core Strategies

3a.3(a). Develop minimum impact suppression protocols for mutual aid responses.

3a.3(b). Develop MOU / MOA and contract templates to ensure safe, effective fire suppression operations.

SFM Long Term Goal

3a4. Ensure appropriate life safety systems and procedures are adequate.

Core Strategies

3a.4(a). NPS complies with national standards for public and residential structures.

3a.4(b). All major rehab and construction plans are reviewed and approved by a Fire Protection Engineer.

3a.4(c). Fire detection and suppression systems are reviewed and approved by a fire protection engineer or technician certified by National Institute Certification of Engineering Technicians.

3a.4(d). NPS and concession staff are trained to the awareness of life safety systems and procedures.

3a.4(e). Residents are trained to be aware of safe fire prevention work and living space (brochures, Fire Prevention Week, etc.).